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**(54) N-carboxyalkyl dipeptide derivatives and pharmaceutical compositions thereof.**

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**(55) References cited:**

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polyanion chemistry and its conversion into  
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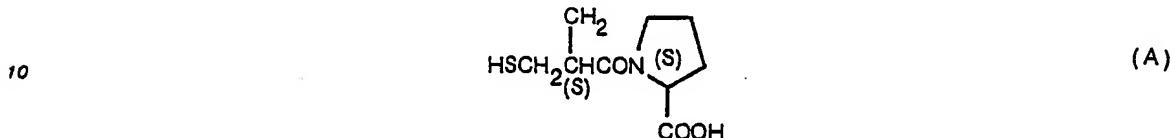
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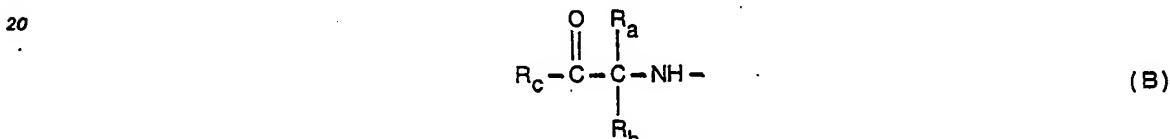
**Description**

This invention relates to a novel compounds having pharmacological activity, to pharmaceutical compositions containing them, and to a process for their preparation.

5 Captopril is a known compound having anti-hypertensive activity and the formula (A):



15 European Patent Publication No. 12401 describes a class of compounds which also have anti-hypertensive activity and which differ from captopril by the replacement of the HSCH<sub>2</sub>-moiety by a group of formula (B):

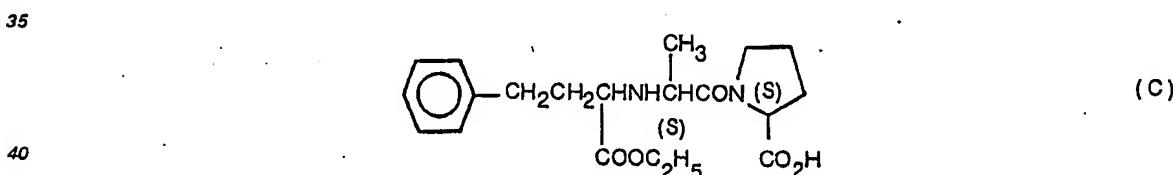


wherein

30 R<sub>a</sub> is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted arloweralkyl arloweralkenyl, heteroarloweralkyl or heteroarloweralkenyl, or arloweralkyl or heteroarloweralkyl substituted on the alkyl position, and

R<sub>b</sub> is hydrogen or lower alkyl, and

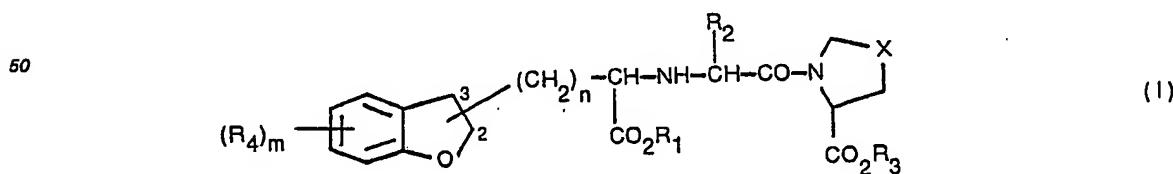
R<sub>c</sub> is hydroxy or alenoxy or alkoxy, aryloxy, or amino, each of which may be optionally substituted. A representative compound disclosed in the European Patent Publication has formula (C):



45 and is referred to as N-(1(s)-ethoxycarbonyl-3-phenylpropyl)-L-alanyl-L-proline.

A novel class of compounds has now been discovered which also has antihypertensive activity.

Accordingly the present invention provides a compound of formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

m is 0 to 3;

n is 1 to 5;

60 R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub>

wherein p is 1 to 4, or -NHCOR<sub>5</sub> wherein R<sub>5</sub> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

R<sub>4</sub> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, halogen or CF<sub>3</sub>; and

65 X is CH<sub>2</sub> or S.

The dihydrobenzofuranyl moiety may be bonded to the rest of the structure at the 2- or 3-position, preferably, the 2-position.

Suitable examples of m are 0, 1 and 2, preferably 0.

Suitable examples of n are 1 and 2. Preferred ranges of n within the generality of the invention are 2 to

5 5 and 2 to 4. Specific examples are 2 and 3.

Suitable examples of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are hydrogen, methyl, ethyl and n- and iso-propyl. Often R<sub>3</sub> will be hydrogen and R<sub>1</sub> will be hydrogen or alkyl, such as ethyl.

Suitable examples of R<sub>2</sub> include hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- and iso-propyl, more suitably hydrogen or methyl. R<sub>2</sub> may also suitably be -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> with p suitably being 1 or 2; p is 4 is also a suitable value.

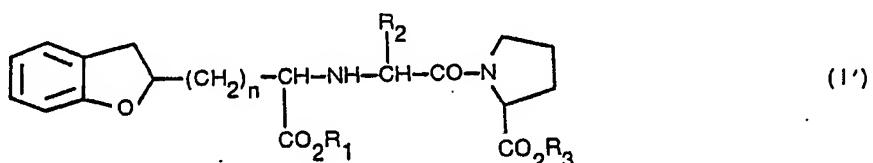
10 Suitable examples of R<sub>4</sub> include methyl, ethyl; methoxy, ethoxy; chloro, bromo and iodo; and CF<sub>3</sub>.

Preferably X is CH<sub>2</sub>.

The pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of formula (I) include those with bases, such as alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, for example sodium and potassium salts, and ammonium salts, and those with acids such as hydrochloride, hydrobromide, sulphate, phosphate, maleate and like salts.

15 From the aforesaid it will be appreciated that a preferred class of compounds of formula (I) is of formula (I)':

20



25

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

n is 1 or 2 to 5, especially 2 or 3;

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, such as ethyl; and

30 R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, such as methyl.

The most preferred class of compounds of formula (I) are those of formula (I)', or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

n is 2 to 5, especially 2 or 3;

R<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, such as ethyl;

35 R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl such as methyl; and

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen.

The compounds of the formula (I) are inhibitors of angiotensin converting enzyme, and thus have antihypertensive activity. They may accordingly be used in the therapy of hypertension in mammals including humans.

40 Accordingly the present invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises a compound of the formula (I), or in particular of formula (I)', and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The compositions of this invention are most suitably adapted for oral administration although adaption for other modes of administration, for example by injection, are also possible.

In order to obtain consistency of administration it is preferred that the compositions of this invention 45 are in the form of a unit-dose. Suitable unit-dose forms include tablets, capsules, ampoules and powders in sachets. Such unit dose forms aptly contain from 1 to 100 mg of a compound of this invention and more usually from 2 to 75 mg, for example 5 to 50 mg.

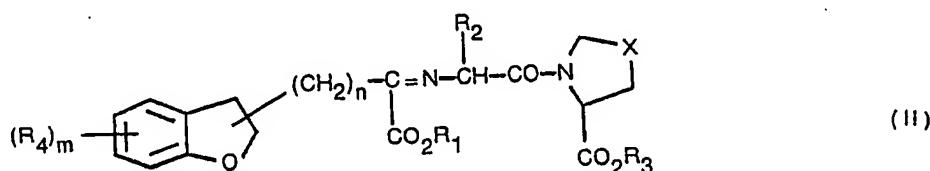
Such compositions may be administered from 1 to 6 times a day, more usually from 2 to 4 times a day, in a regimen such that the daily dose is from 5 to 200 mg for a 70 kg human adult and preferably from 10 to 50 mg.

The compositions of this invention may be formulated in conventional manner, for example in a manner similar to that used for known antihypertensive agents such as hydralazine.

In addition such compositions may contain further active agents such as other anti-hypertensive agents especially β-blocking agents, and diuretics.

55 The invention also provides a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) which comprises the reduction of a compound of formula (II):

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65 wherein

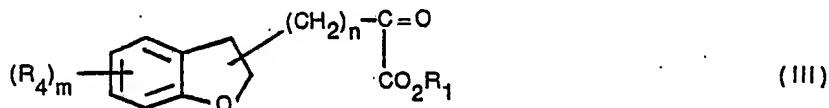
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R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>4</sub> and m and n are as defined for formula (I) or (I)'.

The reduction is carried out in any suitable manner known generally for such reductions. For example, sodium cyanoborohydride may be used in a suitable dry solvent, such as ethanol. Alternatively the reaction may be carried out by hydrogenation over one of the conventional catalysts, such as palladium on carbon or platinum or rhodium in a suitable dry solvent, for example ethanol.

5 The compounds of formula (II) which are novel intermediates and represent part of the invention, may in turn be prepared by reacting a compound of formula (III):

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15 with a compound of formula (IV)

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wherein R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>4</sub> and m and n are as defined for formula (I) or (I)'.

The coupling reaction between the compounds of formulae (III) and (IV) may be carried out by mixing together the reactants in a dry solvent.

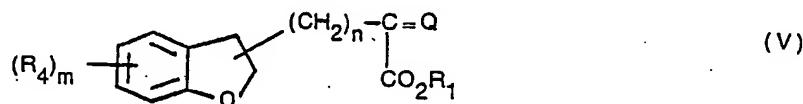
30 The two-step conversion of the compounds of formulae (III) and (IV) into the desired compound of formula (II) or (II)' may preferably be carried out in one operation by producing the imine of formula (III) in situ. In such cases a means for removing the water formed as a by-product of imine formation should be present, such as, molecular sieves. The reduction of the imine and the removal of the water will drive the reaction forward to give the desired product of formula (I) or (I)', the actual amount of imine formed at any 35 one time being very small.

35 The compounds of formula (IV) are either known compounds or may be prepared by processes analogous to those used for structurally similar known compounds.

The compounds of the formula (IV) may be prepared by the deprotection of formula (V):

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45



50 wherein Q is a carbonyl protecting group, R<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, and R<sub>4</sub> and m and n are as defined for formula (I) or (I)', and if required, subsequently hydrolysing the compound of formula (V) to a corresponding compound of formula (V) wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen.

Suitable examples of carbonyl protecting groups Q include ketals and thionketals. Obviously the reaction conditions used to effect the removal of the protecting group will be dependent on the nature of the protecting group used.

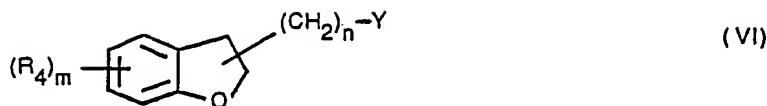
55 By way of example, the protecting group

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is normally removed by a reaction which is carried out with either methyl iodide/acetonitrile (or acetone)/H<sub>2</sub>O, or with N-chlorosuccinimide/silver nitrate/acetonitrile/.

65 Compounds of formula (V) may themselves be prepared by reacting a compound of formula (VI):



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wherein Y is a leaving group, such as tosyl, mesyl and halo, for example chloro, bromo or iodo, and R<sub>4</sub>, m and n are as defined for formula (I) or (I)', with a compound of formula (VII):

10



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and Q are as defined for formula (V). This reaction is suitably carried out in the presence of a strong base, for example sodium hydride in dry dimethylformamide and toluene.

Compounds of formula (VII) are either known compounds or may be prepared in an analogous manner to the preparation of structurally similar known compounds.

Compounds of formula (VI) are also known compounds or may be prepared in an analogous manner to the preparation of structurally similar, known compounds. By way of example, a modification of the literature method provided by R. Adams and R. E. Rindfusz in *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 41, 648 (1919) and H. Normant, *Ann. Chim.* 17, 335 (1942) is suitable for the preparation of those compounds of formula (VI), wherein the dihydrobenzofuran moiety is bonded to the rest of the structure at the 2-position, and Y is bromo and m is 0 and n is 1. This synthesis is shown below schematically:

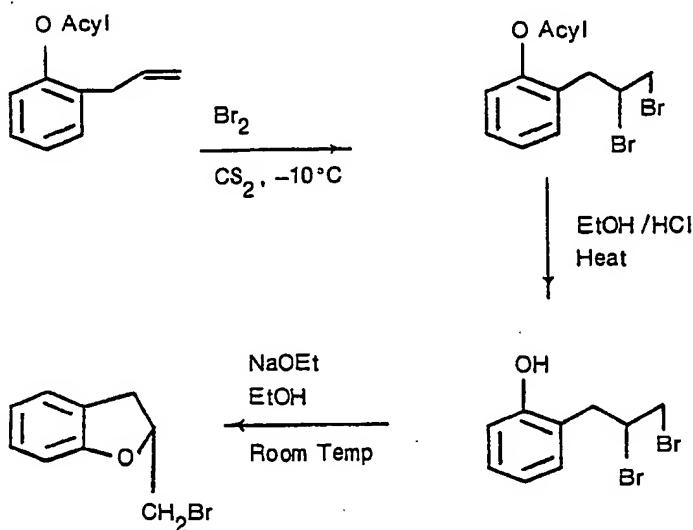
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After the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or (I)' as herein described certain variable groups in the compound may then be optionally converted to other groups. By way of example, a compound of formula (I), wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are both hydrogen, may be esterified in conventional manner to give the corresponding compound of formula (I), wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are both alkyl.

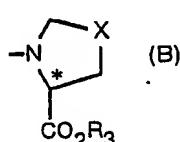
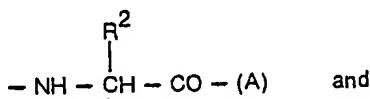
The salts of the compounds of formulae (I) and (I)' may be prepared in conventional manner, for example by reacting the compound of formula (I) or (I)' with acid or base as appropriate.

The compounds of formula (I) and (I)' have asymmetric centres and thus are capable of existing in a number of stereoisomeric forms. This invention extends to each of these stereoisomeric forms and to mixtures thereof (including racemates).

The different stereoisomeric forms may be separated one from the other by conventional techniques or any given isomer may be obtained by a stereospecific synthesis.

The asymmetric centres indicated by "\*" in the part structures:

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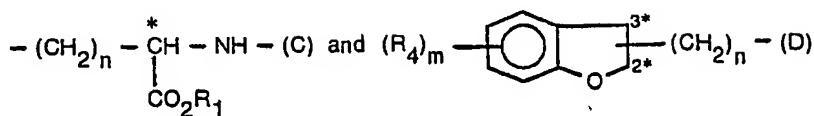


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are preferably in the S configuration.

The asymmetric centres indicated by "\*" in the part structures:

5



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are in the R or S configuration, preferably in the S configuration in (C), or in both configurations together as in a racemic mixture.

The preferred compounds of formula (I) and (II), are those in which the aforementioned part structures 15 of formulae (A) to (D) are in the following configurations:

20

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
1.	S	S	R	R
2.	S	S	S	S
3.	S	S	R	S
4.	S	S	S	R
5.	S	S	RS	RS

35 The following examples illustrate the invention.

#### Example 1

a) (2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-methyl bromide

A solution of bromine (90 g) in carbon disulphide (100 ml) was added dropwise to a well stirred 40 solution of O-acetyl-2-allylphenol (100 g) in carbon disulphide (300 ml) at -10°C over 1 hour. The solution was evaporated to dryness *in vacuo*, to afford O-acetyl-2-allylphenol dibromide which was immediately dissolved in dry ethanol (300 ml) containing 10 ml of a saturated ethanolic-hydrogen chloride solution. The solution was heated under gentle reflux for 2 hours, and then evaporated to dryness *in vacuo*. The residue was triturated with n-pentane, and the solid 2-allylphenol dibromide (135 g) was collected and washed twice with portions of n-pentane. The product is pure enough for further reaction. 2-Allylphenol dibromide (135 g) in dry ethanol (300 ml) was treated with a solution of sodium ethoxide (38 g) in ethanol (100 ml) with cooling and stirring, keeping the temperature of the reaction between 30 and 35°C. After addition, the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour, and then evaporated to dryness *in vacuo*. The residue was partitioned between n-pentane and water. The n-pentane fraction was washed with 2% sodium 45 hydroxide solution, water, and dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ). Evaporation to dryness *in vacuo* afforded crude (2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-methyl bromide (90 g), which distilled at 110—118°C/0.5 mm to afford product (78 g) of slightly higher purity.

b) 2-[2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl]methyl]-1,3-dithiane-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester

A solution of (2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)methyl bromide (22 g) and ethyl 1,3-dithiane-2-carboxylate (19.8 g) in dry DMF (50 ml) was added dropwise to a suspension of 80% sodium hydride (3.1 g) in dry toluene (50 ml) at 0°C. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 hours, when water (150 ml) was added and the toluene layer separated. The aqueous fraction was further extracted with toluene; the combined toluene fractions washed with water and dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ). The solution was evaporated to 50 dryness *in vacuo* and recrystallised from ether-pentane to afford 2-[2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl]methyl]-1,3-dithiane-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (11.4 g), mp 71—73°C; M/e 324.0845  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{S}_2$  requires  $\text{M}^+$  324.0852. NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) δ 1.25 (3H, t,  $J=10$  Hz); 1.8—3.65 (10H, m); 4.2 (2H, q,  $J=10$  Hz); 5.15 (1H, m); and 6.6—7.2 (4H, m).

After column chromatography on silica gel in ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:9), a further batch of the 55 compound (5.0 g) was obtained.

## c) 2,3-Dihydro-a-oxo-2-benzofuranpropanoic acid ethyl ester

(i) A solution of the dithiane product of (b) (4.0 g) in acetonitrile (5 ml) was added to a solution of N-chlorosuccinimide (6.6 g) and silver nitrate (9.5 g) in 80% acetonitrile-water (50 ml) at 0°C. The temperature was allowed to rise to 15°C, and the solution was held at this temperature for 20 minutes, when a saturated aqueous solution of sodium sulphite (30 ml) was added.

The aqueous solution was extracted three times with dichloromethane-hexane (1:1) (50 ml). The organic fraction was washed with sodium bicarbonate solution, then with water, and dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ). Evaporation to dryness *in vacuo* afforded a semi-crystalline residue which was triturated with ether and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness *in vacuo* to afford 2,3-dihydro-a-oxo-2-benzofuranpropanoic acid ethyl ester (0.8 g) as a pale yellow oil; (Found m/e 234.0883,  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$  requires  $M^+ 234.0891$ ).

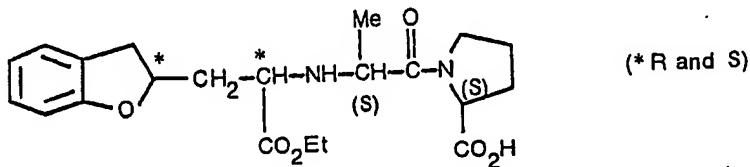
NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 1.3 (3H, t,  $J=10\text{Hz}$ ); 2.5—3.5 (4H, m); 4.25 (2H, q,  $J=10\text{Hz}$ ); 5.1 (1H, m); and 6.5—7.2 (4H, m).

(ii) A solution of the dithiane product of (b) (8.5 g) in acetonitrile (40 ml) and water (10 ml) was treated with an excess of methyl iodide (26 g) under nitrogen, and the solution was well stirred at room temperature for 48 hours, and evaporated to dryness. The residue was taken in dichloromethane and washed successively with saturated sodium sulphite solution, sodium bicarbonate and water, dried over ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), and evaporated to dryness. The residue was shaken with three portions of ether, which were combined and evaporated to dryness to afford a semi-crystalline solid (2.8 g) which was triturated with ether-pentane (1:1) and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness *in vacuo* to afford 2,3-dihydro-a-oxo-2-benzofuran propanoic acid ethyl ester (2.0 g), identical (NMR) with the previous sample.

## (d) N-[N-[[2-(2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-1-(ethoxy carbonyl)]ethyl]-S-alanyl]-S-proline

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A solution of 2,3-dihydro-a-oxo-2-benzofuranpropanoic acid ethyl ester (2.0 g) in dry ethanol (15 ml) containing 4A molecular sieves (7 g) was treated with (S)-alanyl-(S)-proline (0.7 g) and then stirred at room temperature under nitrogen for 1 hour. Sodium cyanoborohydride (0.25 g) was added portionwise over 30 hours, and after 48 hours, the solution was filtered and the filtrate evaporated to dryness. The residue was partitioned between sodium bicarbonate solution and chloroform. The aqueous fraction was washed with chloroform, acidified to pH 3.5 with 10% citric acid solution, and extracted three times with chloroform. The chloroform solution was washed with water, dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), and evaporated to dryness *in vacuo* to afford N-[N-[[2-(2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-1-(ethoxycarbonyl)]ethyl]-S-alanyl]-S-proline, (0.37 g) as a pale yellow solid. Found m/e 404.1975  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$  requires  $M^+ 404.1945$ .

NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.25 (6H, br.t); 2.1 (4H,m); 2.5—4.7 (11H,m); 4.9 (1H,m); 6.4 (2H,br.s); (exchanges with  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ); and 6.6—7.2 (4H,m).

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## Example 2

## a) Ethyl 2-(2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-1-ethoxycarbonylpropionate

To a stirred suspension of 80% sodium hydride (18.2 g — previously washed with petroleum ether) in dry dimethylformamide (500 mls) under an atmosphere of nitrogen, was added diethylmalonate (91 mls). After 30 minutes the mixture was cooled to 0°C and (2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)methyl bromide (127 g) added maintaining the temperature below 5°C. The temperature was raised to 65°C and the mixture heated overnight.

On cooling the solution was poured into water (3.5 l) and extracted with ether ( $3 \times 500$  mls). The organic phase was washed with saturated brine solution, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate and excess solvent removed *in vacuo* to yield a yellow oil (170 g). NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) (60 Mz)  $\delta$  1.20 (6H, t,  $J = 7\text{ Hz}$ ); 2.00—3.50 (5H, m); 4.10 (4H, q,  $J = 7\text{ Hz}$ ); 4.65 (1H, m); 6.75 (4H, m).

## b) 2-(2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-1-carboxy propionic acid

A solution of ethyl 2-(2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-1-ethoxycarbonyl-propionate (170 g), sodium hydroxide (186 g), ethanol (800 mls) and water (800 mls) was stirred at room temperature for 48 hours. The mixture was acidified with 5N hydrochloric acid solution and extracted with ether ( $4 \times 150$  mls). After drying the organic phase over anhydrous magnesium sulphate, excess solvent was removed yielding a semi-solid (127 g). A sample of the product was recrystallized from ethanol, m.p. 122—123°C. M/ $\bar{g}$  236.0691  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$  requires  $M^+ 236.0685$ , NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) (80MHz)  $\delta$  2.00—3.70 (5H, m); 4.75 (1H, m); 7.00 (4H, m); 9.85 (2H, s).

## c) 2-(2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl) propionic acid

A mixture of 2-(2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-1-carboxy-propionic acid (60 g) and xylene (600 mls) was heated under reflux for 3 hours after which time most solids had dissolved. The liquid was decanted and solvent removed *in vacuo* yielding an oil which crystallized on standing. This product was purified by dissolving the acid in ether (200 mls) and extracting the solution with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (3 x 100 mls). The bicarbonate layer was acidified with 5N hydrochloric acid solution and the mixture extracted with ether (4 x 80 mls). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate and the solvent evaporated affording a white solid (35 g). M/e M<sup>+</sup> 192. NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (80 MHz) δ 1.80—3.50 (6H, m); 4.75 (1H, m); 6.60—7.30 (4H, m).

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## d) 3-(2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl) propanol

2-(2,3-Dihydrobenzofuranyl)propanoic acid (10 g) was dissolved in ether (60 mls) added dropwise to a stirred suspension of lithium aluminium hydride (2.0 g) in ether (90 mls). The reaction temperature was maintained below 30°C whilst under an atmosphere of nitrogen. After 3 hours water was added to destroy excess hydride. The mixture was filtered and the ether layer separated and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate. Removal of solvent gave an oil (8.0 g). M/e 178.0984 NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (60 MHz) δ 1.65 (4H, m); 2.30—3.30 (2H, m); 3.50 (2H t, J = 6 Hz); 3.90 (1H, s), 4.65 (1H, m); 6.40—7.20 (4H, m).

## e) 3-(2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl) propyl methanesulphonate

20 Methanesulphonyl chloride (12.7 g) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 3-(2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl) propanol (15.0 g), triethylamine (12.7 g) in dichloromethane (150 mls — dry) at 0°C under nitrogen. After 24 hours the organic phase washed successively with 5N hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 50 mls), saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mls) and saturated brine (1 x 50 mls).

The organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate and excess solvent removed *in vacuo* yielding an oil (15.5 g after column chromatography; silica chloroform). M/e 256.0775 C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S requires 256.0769. NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (60 MHz) δ 1.75 (4H, m); 2.85 (3H, s); 2.50—3.20 (2H, m); 4.15 (2H, t, J = 6 Hz); 4.65 (1H, m) 6.50—7.10 (4H, m).

## f) 3-(2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl) propyl bromide

30 3-(2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl) propyl methanesulphonate (18 g), lithium bromide (12.2 g) and acetone (150 mls) were mixed and heated under reflux for 1.5h. The mixture was cooled and evaporated yielding an oily solid. This residue was treated with ether (4 x 20 mls). After drying the organic phase over anhydrous magnesium sulphate excess solvent was removed *in vacuo* affording an oil (15 g). This material was checked by t.l.c. and was carried through to the next stage.

35 NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (60 MH) δ 1.90 (4H, m); 2.50—3.50 (4H, m); 4.75 (1H, m); 6.60—7.20 (4H, m).

## g) 3-[2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl]propyl]-1,3-dithiane-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester

40 A solution of 3-(2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)propyl bromide (13.5 g) and 2-carboxy-1,3-dithiane (10.8 g) in dimethylformamide (60 mls) was added dropwise at 0°C to a stirred suspension of 80% NaH (previously washed with petroleum ether) (1.7 g) in toluene (25 mls)/dimethylformamide (40 mls) under nitrogen. Gas was evolved and after five minutes a solid precipitated an additional quantity of toluene-dimethylformamide (100 mls of a 1:1 solution) was added to make the mixture mobile. After one hour the temperature was raised to room temperature and the mixture stirred overnight.

45 The resulting suspension was poured into water (500 mls) and extracted with ether (4 x 100 mls). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate and excess solvent removed *in vacuo* yielding an oil (17 g). NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (60 MHz) δ 1.30 (3H, t, J = 7Hz); 1.80 (4H,m); 2.20—3.50 (10H, m); 4.00 (2H, q, J = 7 Hz); 4.50 (1H, m); 6.70 (4H, m).

## h) 2,3-Dihydro-a-oxo-2-benzofuran-pentanoic acid ethyl ester

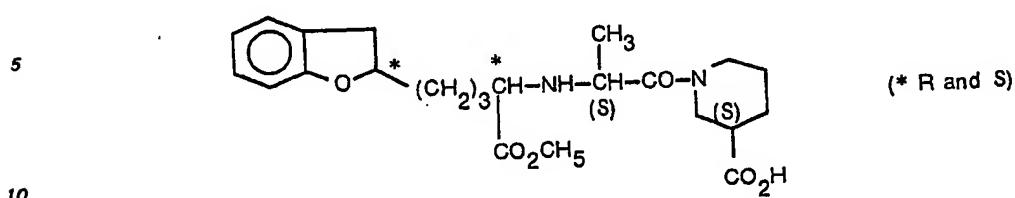
50 3-[2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl]propyl]-1,3-dithiane-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (8.0 g) dissolved in acetonitrile (15 mls) was added rapidly to a stirred solution of N-chlorosuccinimide (120 g) and silver nitrate (17.6 g) in 80% acetonitrile-water at 25°C. After 10 minutes saturated solutions of sodium sulphite (50 mls), sodium carbonate (50 mls) and brine were added successively at one minute intervals. To this mixture, a solution of hexane-dichloromethane (1:1, 250 mls) was added followed by filtration through celite. The organic phase of the filtrate was separated and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate. Removal of solvent gave an oil (5.0 g). The unstable product was used immediately in the next stage.

M/e M<sup>+</sup> 262.

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (60 MHz) δ 1.25 (3H, t, J = 7 Hz); 1.70 (4H, m); 2.60—3.50 (4H, m); 4.20 (2H, q, J = 7Hz); 4.70 (1H, m); 6.80 (4H, m).

60

i) N-[N-[(4-2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-1-(ethoxycarbonyl)]butyl]-(S)-alanyl)-(S)-proline



A solution of 2,3-dihydro- $\alpha$ -oxo-2-benzofuranpentanoic acid ethyl ester (5.0 g) in dry ethanol (40 ml) containing powdered activated 4 $\text{\AA}$  molecular sieves (17 g) was treated with (S)-alanyl-(S)-proline (1.78 g) and then stirred at 25°C under nitrogen for 1.5 hours. Sodium cyanoborohydride (0.6 g) was added portionwise over 30 hours, and after 48 hours the solution was filtered and evaporated to dryness.

The residue was shaken with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and chloroform, separated and the aqueous phase washed with chloroform ( $2 \times 20$  ml). The aqueous solution was acidified with 10% citric acid solution until pH 3.5 and then extracted with chloroform ( $4 \times 20$  mls). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate and excess solvent removed *in vacuo* yielding an oil. Purification by chromatography (silica, 20% methanol-80% chloroform) gave a pale yellow solid (0.5 g). M/e M—H<sub>2</sub>O, 414. NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (80 MHz) δ 1.25 (6H, t, J = 8.0 Hz); 1.50—2.50 (8H, m); 2.50—3.90 (8H, n); 4.20 (2H, q, J = 8 Hz); 4.40—5.0 (2H, m); 6.60—7.20 (4H, m). [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>28</sup> = -53.8°C = 2.00 in methanol.

## 25 PHARMACOLOGICAL DATA

#### *1. In vivo test for inhibition of angiotensin converting enzyme*

The compounds of examples 1 (d) and 2 (i) were each tested in anaesthetized rats for their ability to reduce the pressor responses to angiotensin I, but not those to angiotensin II.

The dose of angiotensin I was 300 ng/kg (iv) and the dose of angiotensin II was 100 ng/kg (iv).  
The results given below are the mean of those obtained with at least two rats.

'I' is the increase in diastolic blood pressure (mm Hg) to angiotensin I (control response).

'%R' is the percentage reduction in control angiotensin I response after the intervals (min) from dosage.

In the same rats each dose of the compounds of Examples 1 (a) and 2 (i) augmented the pressor responses of angiotensin II.

From the above results, it is concluded that the compounds of Examples 1 (a) and 2 (i) reduce the pressor responses to angiotensin I but not those to angiotensin II and thus inhibit angiotensin converting enzyme.

## **2. Anti-Hypertensive Activity**

55 Systolic blood pressures were recorded by a modification of the tail cuff method described by I. M.  
Claxton, M. G. Palfreyman, R. H. Poyser and R. L. Whiting, European Journal of Pharmacology, 37, 179  
(1976). A W+W BP recorder, model 8005 was used to display pulses. Prior to all measurements rats were  
placed in a heated environment ( $33.5 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ ) before transfer to a restraining cage. Each determination of  
blood pressure was the mean of at least 6 readings. Spontaneously hypertensive rats (ages 12–18 weeks)  
60 with systolic blood pressures  $170 >$  mmHg were considered hypertensive.

	Compound of Example	Time post dose hours	% Change in systolic blood pressure	% Change in heart rate
5	1 (d) 6 rats Dose 10 mg/kg po	1 2	-16 ± 2 -26 ± 2	-1 ± 1 0 ± 2
10	Initial Blood Pressure 244 ± 3 Initial Heart Rate 488 ± 6 2 (i) 6 rats Dose 10 mg/kg po	4 6 24	-24 ± 2 -25 ± 2 -14 ± 2	-2 ± 1 -4 ± 5 -4 ± 5
15	Initial blood Pressure 218 ± 4 Initial Heart Rate 440 ± 13	1 2 4 6 24	-10 ± 3 -6 ± 3 -15 ± 2 -24 ± 3 -13 ± 5	6 ± 2 7 ± 2 8 ± 2 11 ± 2 7 ± 3
20				

## Conclusion

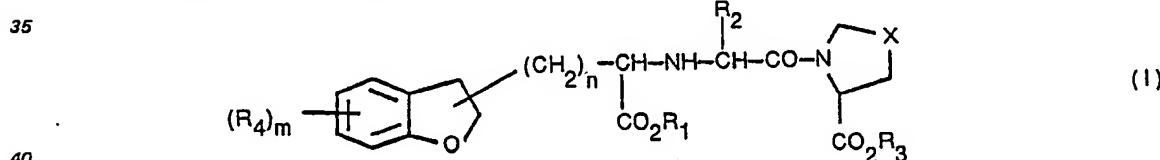
25 The compounds of Examples 1 (d) and 2 (i) lower the blood pressure of spontaneously hypertensive rats from 1—24 hour post dose, without affecting the heart rate.

## Toxicity

30 No toxic effects were observed in these tests.

## Claims

1. A compound of formula (I),



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

m is 0 to 3;

n is 1 to 5;

45 R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> wherein

p is 1 to 4, or —NHCOR<sub>5</sub> wherein R<sub>5</sub> is

C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl;

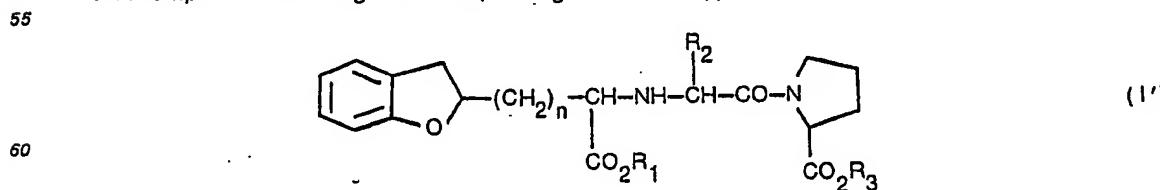
R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl

50 R<sub>4</sub> is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, halogen or CF<sub>3</sub>;

and X is CH<sub>2</sub> or S.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the dihydrobenzofuranyl moiety is bonded to the rest of the structure at the 2-position.

3. A compound according to claim 2, having the formula (I)'



65 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

n is 1 or 2 or 2 to 5

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl; and  
R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl.

4. A compound according to claim 3, wherein:

n is 2 to 5;

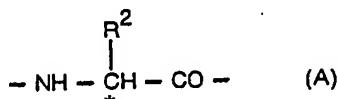
R<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl; and

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the asymmetric centres of the part structures of formulae (A) and (B) (indicated \*):

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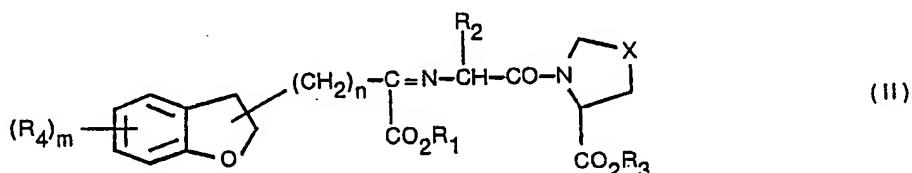
are in the S configuration.

6. N-[N-[(2-(2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-1-(ethoxycarbonyl)] ethyl)-(S)-alanyl]- (S)-proline or

20 N-[N-[(4-(2,3-Dihydrobenzofuranyl)-1-(ethoxycarbonyl)]butyl)-(S)-alanyl]- (S)-proline.

7. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of the preceding claims, which comprises the reduction of a compound of formula (II):

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30

wherein R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>4</sub> and m and n are as defined in claim 1.

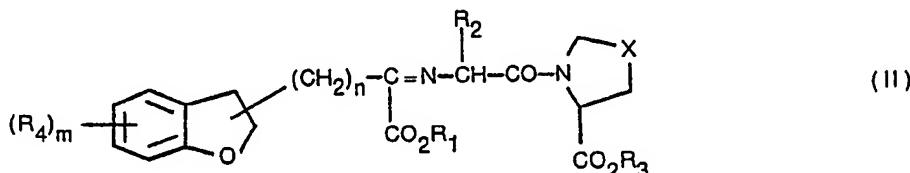
8. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35 9. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 for use in the therapy of hypertension.

10. A compound according to either of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub> wherein p is 1 to 4.

11. A compound of formula (II),

40

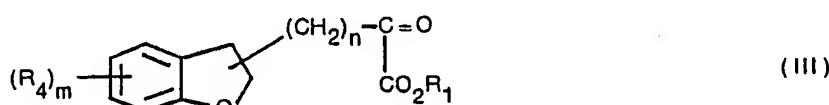


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wherein R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>4</sub>, X, m and n are as defined in claim 1.

12. A compound of formula (III),

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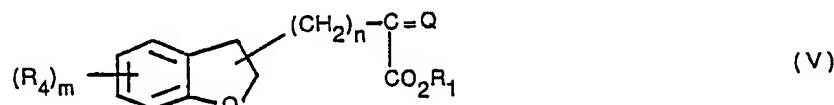


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wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, m and n are as defined in claim 1.

13. A compound of formula (V)

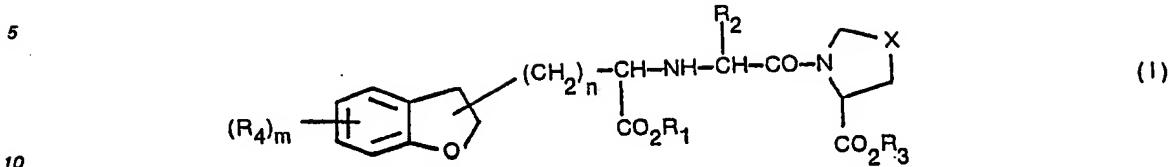
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65 wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, m and n are as defined in claim 1, and Q is a carbonyl protecting group.

## Patentansprüche

1. Eine Verbindung der Formel (I):

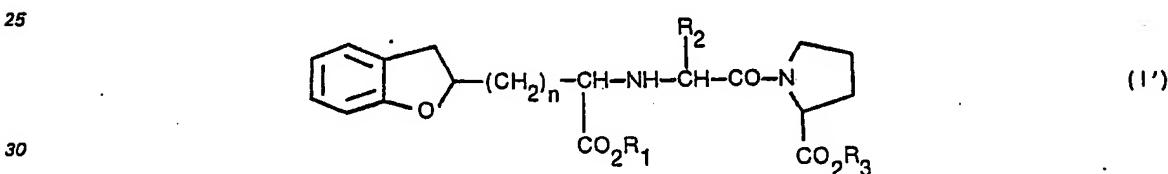


oder ein pharmazeutisch verträgliches derselben, in welcher:

- m einen Wert von 0 bis 3 hat;
- n einen Wert von 1 bis 5 hat;
- 15 R<sub>1</sub> Wasserstoff oder ein C<sub>1-6</sub>-Alkyl bedeutet;
- R<sub>2</sub> Wasserstoff, C<sub>1-4</sub>-Alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub>, wobei p einen Wert von 1 bis 4 hat, oder -NHCOR<sub>5</sub>, wobei R<sub>5</sub> ein C<sub>1-4</sub>-Alkyl ist, bedeutet;
- R<sub>3</sub> Wasserstoff oder C<sub>1-6</sub>-Alkyl ist;
- R<sub>4</sub> ein C<sub>1-4</sub>-Alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>-Alkoxy, Halogen oder CF<sub>3</sub> bedeutet,
- 20 und X CH<sub>2</sub> oder S darstellt.

2. Eine Verbindung nach Anspruch 1, in welcher die Dihydrobenzofuranylgruppe an den Rest der Struktur in der 2-Stellung gebunden ist.

3. Eine Verbindung nach Anspruch 2, mit der Formel (I)'



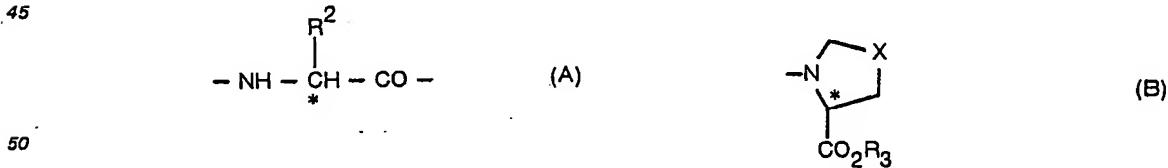
oder ein pharmazeutisch verträgliches Salz derselben, in welcher:

- n den Wert 1 oder 2 oder einen Wert von 2 bis 5 hat;
- 35 R<sub>1</sub> und R<sub>2</sub> gleich oder verschieden sind und jeweils Wasserstoff oder C<sub>1-4</sub>-Alkyl bedeuten; und R<sub>2</sub> Wasserstoff oder C<sub>1-4</sub>-Alkyl bedeutet.

4. Eine Verbindung nach Anspruch 3, in welcher:

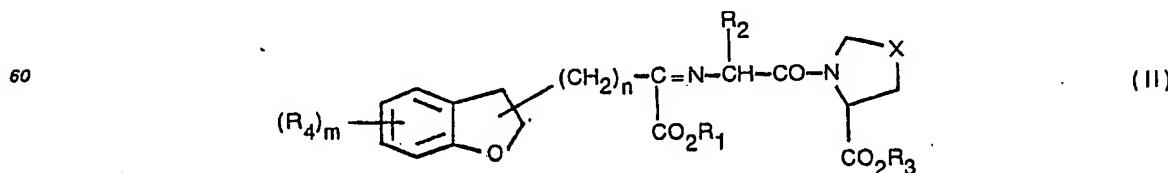
- n einen Wert von 2 bis 5 hat;
- R<sub>1</sub> C<sub>1-4</sub>-Alkyl ist; und
- 40 R<sub>2</sub> C<sub>1-4</sub>-Alkyl ist; und
- R<sub>3</sub> Wasserstoff bedeutet.

5. Eine Verbindung nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche in welcher die asymmetrischen Zentren der Teilstrukturen der Formeln (A) und (B) (gekennzeichnet mit \*)



in der S-Konfiguration vorliegen.

6. N-[N-[(2-(2,3-Dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-1-(äthoxycarbonyl)]äthyl]-S-alanyl]-S-prolin, oder N-[N-[(4-(2,3-Dihydrobenzofuranyl)-1-(äthoxycarbonyl)]butyl]-S-alanyl]-S-prolin.
- 55 7. Ein Verfahren zur Herstellung einer Verbindung der Formel (I), wie in einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche definiert, welches die Reduktion der Verbindung der Formel (II):



- 65 in welcher R<sub>1</sub> bis R<sub>4</sub> und m und n wie in Anspruch 1 definiert sind, umfaßt.

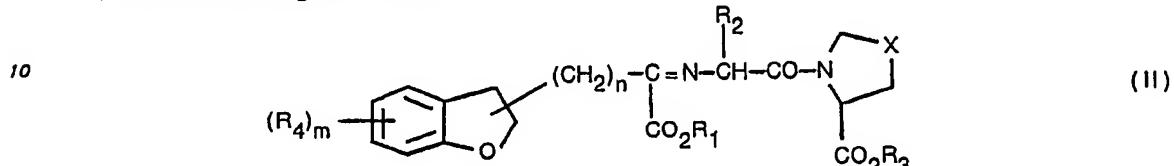
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8. Eine pharmazeutische Zusammensetzung welche eine Verbindung gemäß einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6 und einen pharmazeutisch verträglichen Träger umfaßt.

9. Eine Verbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6 zur Verwendung in der Therapie von Bluthochdruck.

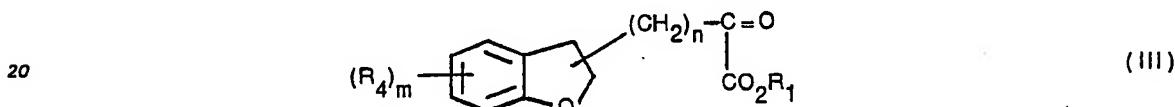
5 10. Eine Verbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 oder 2, in welcher R<sub>2</sub> Wasserstoff, C<sub>1-4</sub>-Alkyl oder —(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>—NH<sub>2</sub> wobei p einen Wert von 1 bis 4 hat, bedeutet.

11. Eine Verbindung der Formel (II):



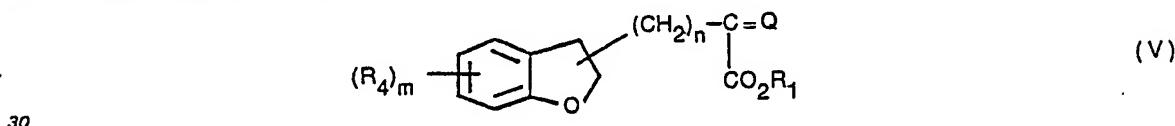
15 in welcher R<sub>1</sub> bis R<sub>4</sub>, X, m und wie in Anspruch 1 definiert sind.

12. Eine Verbindung der Formel (III),



in welcher R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, m und n wie in Anspruch 1 definiert sind.

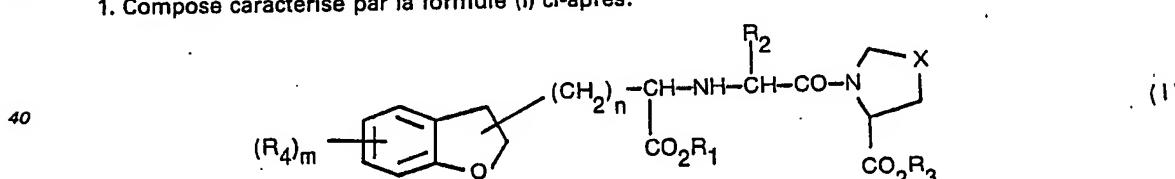
25 13. Eine Verbindung der Formel (V)



in welcher R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, m und n wie in Anspruch 1 definiert sind und Q eine Carbonyl-Schutzgruppe ist.

## Revendications

35 1. Composé caractérisé par la formule (I) ci-après:



45 ou un sel acceptable du point de vue pharmaceutique de celui-ci, dans laquelle:

m est 0 à 3;

n est 1 à 5;

R<sub>1</sub> est un atome d'hydrogène ou un groupe alcoyle en C<sub>1-6</sub>;

R<sub>2</sub> est un atome d'hydrogène, un groupe alcoyle en C<sub>1-4</sub>; —(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>—NH<sub>2</sub> où

50 p est 1 à 4, ou —NHCOR<sub>5</sub> où R<sub>5</sub> est un groupe alcoyle en C<sub>1-4</sub>;

R<sub>3</sub> est un atome d'hydrogène ou un groupe alcoyle en C<sub>1-6</sub>;

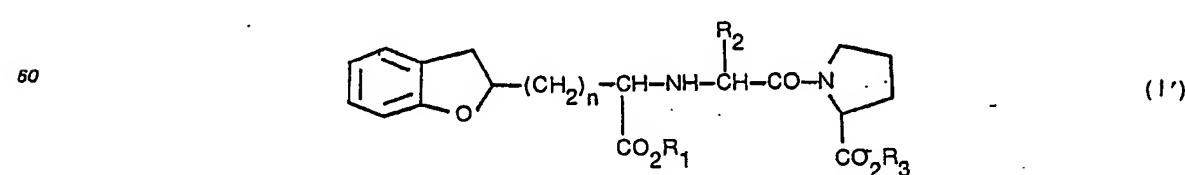
R<sub>4</sub> est un groupe alcoyle en C<sub>1-4</sub>, alcoxy en C<sub>1-4</sub>, un atome d'halogène ou un radical CF<sub>3</sub>; et

X est CH<sub>2</sub> ou S.

2. Composé suivant la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que la partie dihydrobenzofuranyle est reliée

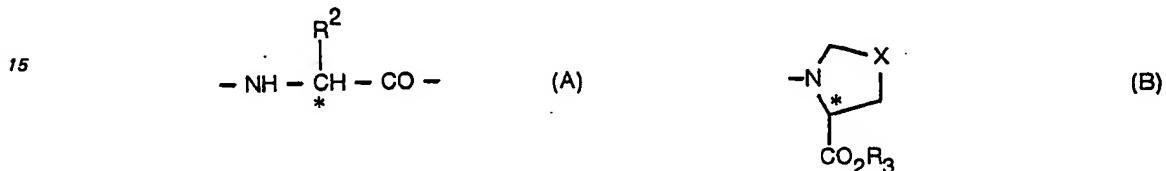
55 au reste de la structure en position 2.

3. Composé suivant la revendication 2, caractérisé en ce qu'il est représenté par la formule (I') ci-après:

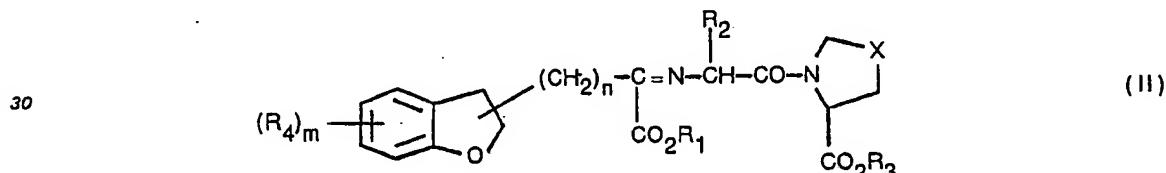


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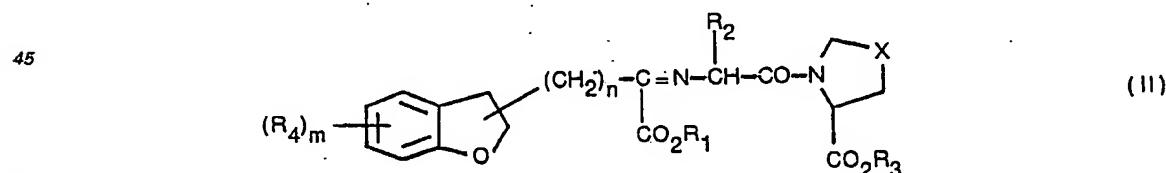
- ou un sel acceptable du point de vue pharmaceutique de celui-ci, dans laquelle:
- n est 1 ou 2, ou 2 à 5;
- R<sub>1</sub> et R<sub>3</sub> sont identiques ou différents et son chacun un atome d'hydrogène ou un groupe alcoyle en C<sub>1-4</sub>; et
- R<sub>2</sub> est un atome d'hydrogène ou un groupe alcoyle en C<sub>1-4</sub>.
- 4. Composé suivant la revendication 3, caractérisé en ce que n est 2 à 5;
- R<sub>1</sub> est un groupe alcoyle en C<sub>1-4</sub>;
- R<sub>2</sub> est un groupe alcoyle en C<sub>1-4</sub>; et
- R<sub>3</sub> est un atome d'hydrogène.
- 5. Composé suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, caractérisé en ce que les centres asymétriques des structures partielles de formules (A) et (B) (indiqués par une astérisque) ci-après:



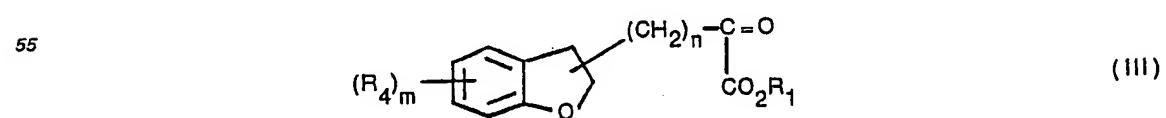
- 20      sont en configuration S.
- 6. La N-[N-[(2-(2,3-dihydro-2-benzofuranyl)-1-(éthoxycarbonyl)]éthyl]-S-alanyl]-S-proline ou la N-[N-[(4-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl)-1-(éthoxycarbonyl)]butyl]-S-alanyl]-S-proline.
- 7. Procédé pour préparer un composé de formule (II), telle que définie dans les revendications précédentes, caractérisé en ce qu'on réduit un composé de formule (III) ci-après:



- 35      où R<sub>1</sub> à R<sub>4</sub>, m et n sont tels que définis dans la revendication 1.
- 8. Composition pharmaceutique caractérisée en ce qu'elle comprend un composé suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6 et un support acceptable du point de vue pharmaceutique.
- 9. Composé suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6, caractérisé en ce qu'il est utile dans le traitement de l'hypertension.
- 40      10. Composé suivant la revendication 1 ou 2, caractérisé en ce que R<sub>2</sub> est un atome d'hydrogène, un groupe alcoyle en C<sub>1-4</sub> ou -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub>, où p est 1 à 4.
- 11. Composé caractérisé en ce qu'il est représenté par la formule (II) ci-après:

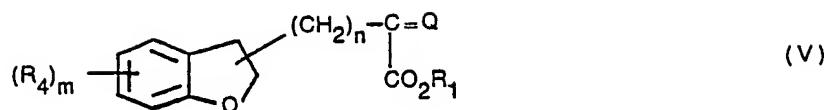


- 50      dans laquelle R<sub>1</sub> à R<sub>4</sub>, X, m et n sont tels que définis dans la revendication 1.
- 12. Composé caractérisé en ce qu'il est représenté par la formule (III) ci-après:



- 60      dans laquelle R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, m et n sont tels que définis dans la revendication 1.
- 13. Composé caractérisé en ce qu'il est représenté par la formule (V) ci-après:

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dans laquelle R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, m et n sont tels que définis dans la revendication 1 et Q est un groupe protégeant la fonction carbonyle.

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